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CONVERSATION WITH CHANCELLOR ADENAUER, May 27, 1959.

(Note: Chancellor Adenauer saw the President for approximately a half hour "alone" -- that is, with the exception of the needed interpreter. This was done at the Chancellor's request. Later they were joined for some fifteen minutes by the Secretary of State and Foreign Minister von Brentano.)

Chancellor Adenauer, as usual, laid out his general thinking toward the Communist menace. In this he shows no great change -- indeed, if he did I would be greatly disappointed.

He seems to have developed almost a psychopathic fear of what he considers to be "British weakness." I went over with him some of my conversations with Mr. Macmillan and also described in rough fashion some of the British problems in the world. I told him that I am certain that in basic conviction and belief, Harold Macmillan and the Conservative Party leadership stand squarely with the rest of us. On the other hand, Britain has some economic and political problems that are almost unique, at least they are delicate and never ending. Since there is a very sharply divided opinion in that nation affecting such matters, Macmillan has had to tread a very careful path. In spite of this I told the Chancellor that in my opinion in any show-down Macmillan would stand firmly on principle.

The Chancellor discussed the continuing objective of re-uniting Germany. He stated, or implied, that the practicalities of the situation were such that the end would have to be achieved in a step-by-step process in which the two sides of Germany would themselves have to exhibit a clear readiness to be conciliatory and reasonable.

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